



available online at www.sciencedirect.com



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jdsr



Foreword

The mission of the Japanese Association for Dental Science is to academically advance dental science so as to contribute to the improvement of dental care for the nation. Our current executive office has been emphasizing this mission since its inauguration. We have selected five priority plans that are thought to be particularly important from among our projects. The five plans involve the following: construction of a system for providing academic grounds for dental care; promotion of innovation for dental care technology; promotion of academic organization reform; establishment of a dental specialist system; and promotion of international exchange.

Firstly, we have three organizations in order to achieve the construction of a system for providing academic grounds for dental care. The first one is the dental care council, the second one is the research and study committee for dental care-related issues, and the third one is the future framework project conference. The organizations can respond to short-term plans, mid-term plans, and long-term perspectives, respectively.

The first-mentioned dental care council contributes to reasonable adjustment of national dental insurance service. The second-mentioned research and study committee for dental care-related issues is aimed at creating guidelines that contribute to the appropriate selection for dental disease prevention and treatment procedures based on scientific grounds.

The second priority plan is for the promotion of innovation for dental care technology. We created the Vision for the Dental Equipment Industry in 2007. One aim for the creation is to encourage the addition of descriptions regarding dentistry to the 2008 revised edition of the New Vision for the Medical Equipment Industry/Medical Technology industry. This is because the Vision for the Medical Equipment Industry created in 2003 contained no descriptions regarding dentistry. In other words, dentistry has been left behind in the advancement of the medical industry and the governmental support for the medical industry. As a result, the 2008 revised edition of the New Vision for Medical Equipment Industry/Medical Technology industry contains, for the first time, five subjects as follows: tailor-made dental care; the use of artificial tooth roots (implants) as body implantable equipment; the use of periodontal membrane sheets for

regenerative medicine; development of portable dental equipment for home dental care; and the prevention for further acceleration of the 8020 promotion. Accordingly, the administrative authorities have finally decided to consider dental care equipment as well as medical equipment.

Next, regarding the third priority plan, the number of sectional committees participating in the Japanese Association for Dental Science has increased from 19 to 30 (as mentioned before). This allows us to adequately respond to a variety of research and study requests from the administrative authorities and the public. That is to say, the Japanese Association for Dental Science is trying to further focus on appeals sent from administrative authorities, through the Japanese Association for Dental Science, to individual sectional committees and appeals sent from individual sectional committees, through the Japanese Association for Dental Science, to administrative authorities and the nation.

Next, regarding the fourth priority plan for the establishment of a dental specialist system, we have a difficult task in dealing with the Japanese Society of Conservative Dentistry and the Japan Prosthodontic Society. We think that it takes time to gain understanding from clinical dentists. On the other hand, in consideration of the thoughts of the Japanese people, the dental specialist system should be viewed from the patient/nation side.

The fifth priority plan is for the promotion of international exchange. The Japanese presence in Asia seems to have diminished to some extent. Therefore, we would like to develop Japanese dental science and medicine based on Asia so as to direct Japan to work hard together with Western countries. For such purpose, we would like to create networks to cooperate with dentists in Asia who have educational background in Japanese university and develop Japanese dental science based on Asia with the use of those networks as hubs. In fact, Japanese university alumni associations are being organized in Beijing, Shanghai, Bangkok, and other cities.

The above is the introduction of the projects of the Japanese Association for Dental Science. The Japanese Association for Dental Science has a goal to maintain and strengthen the base for academic activities for Japanese dental science through these projects. The academic

activities for Japanese dental science are expected to be further developed. Therefore, the role of “the Japanese Dental Science Review” that transmits the outcomes of the activities to the world is gaining significance for the future.

Kazuhiro Eto
President of Japanese Association for Dental Science, Japan
E-mail address: furukawa_ru@jda.or.jp